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A method of encoding a characteristic of a biological sample, the method comprising:
identifying a collection of more than one codes of a standard coding scheme, different codes corresponding to different concepts of the standard coding scheme;
forming a pre-coordinated code from a concatenation of the more than one codes, the pre-coordinated code not being found in the standard coding scheme; and
storing the pre-coordinated code along with other pre-coordinated codes.

The method of claim 1, further comprising storing a collection of one or more lexical terms describing a concept associated with the pre-coordinated code.

The method of claim 1, wherein the codes comprise SNOMED (Systemized Nomenclature of Human and Veterinary Medicine) codes.

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Thank you, MKZ

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